

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 DECEMBER 1986

Iran

U.S. Relations — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a Friday prayer meeting that the United States should hand over the billions of dollars of Iran's blocked assets, and he stressed that Iran is calling on Lebanese Muslims to free their U.S. hostages, Tehran radio reported. However, he said the United States should not call for the establishment of ties with Iran because that is a separate issue.

Sudanese Visit — Reporting on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA cited the Sudanese prime minister's remark that his country seeks to strengthen and expand political, ideological, and intellectual relations with Iran. Al-Mahdi subsequently attended a ceremony marking the reopening of the Sudanese Embassy in Tehran, the agency said, adding that the two countries will exchange ambassadors in the near future.

Italy and the Iranian Ship — An Iranian diplomat in Rome announced that Iran will file a law suit against the Italian Government over the detention of an Iranian cargo ship in Genoa, IRNA reported. The ship was allowed to leave Genoa 19 December but the diplomat said its detention since 11 December had caused "great financial loss." He said the ship had been detained on the basis of "rumours" spread by the "counterrevolutionary monafeqin," a reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq. A Rome radio report on the ship's departure noted that Genoa dock workers called off a strike after being informed that the Iranian stowaway aboard the vessel had said he was not a victim of political persecution.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi fighter planes downed an Iranian F-14 over the Gulf 19 December.

Earlier, Tehran radio reported that an Iraqi pilot who recently defected to Iran in a Sukhoy-22 issued a televised message in which he urged other Iraqi airmen to follow his example.

Iraq

Voice of the Masses radio announced the death of Light Industry Minister Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, who died in a "regrettable accident" after lengthily suffering from "an incurable disease and depression."

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported renewed Amal-Palestinian artillery exchanges in Beirut 19 December and also noted an outbreak of fighting between Syrian forces and Islamic Unification Movement gunmen in the northern port of Tripoli.

The possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting was discussed at an 18 December Amal Movement Political Bureau meeting, according to Beirut radio, which added that the bureau warned against attempts to "mislead" the people and raise false hopes. The pro-Amal Voice of National Resistance radio cited a statement by Amal leader Nabih Birri castigating Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi as an "agent" and a "sectarian."

In South Yemen, PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas told a visiting PLO executive committee member that Amal's attacks on the camps in Lebanon are benefiting "the Zionist enemy," Aden radio reported.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad's call for an international committee to define and combat terrorism was formally submitted to the UN secretary general in a letter from the foreign minister broadcast by Damascus radio.

Libyan Involvement in Chad

Acheikh ibn Oumar, the Libyan-backed GUNT leader, warned that GUNT will be obliged to seek "direct Libyan military intervention" if France continues its military "escalation" and "aggression" in Chad, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. In related remarks reported by Tripoli radio, he spoke of a "U.S.-French joint plan" to consolidate President Hissein Habre's regime and to attack GUNT and Libyan forces.

Reporting on the military situation in Chad, AFP noted Libyan troop movements toward the Tibesti town of Zouar, adding that forces loyal to Habre have arrived in this zone to assist supporters of former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei. In France, Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond warned Libya that French forces will go into action if Libyan forces penetrate southward across the 16th parallel, according to Paris radio.

Israel

Opposition to Nisim Plan — The Labor Party Bureau expressed support for Labor Party ministers and Histadrut leaders in their opposition to Finance Minister Moshe Nisim's new economic plan, Jerusalem radio reported.

Security — Police searched two Yeshivas in Jerusalem 19 December in an attempt to find explosives, Jerusalem radio noted. A police source cited by *The Jerusalem Post* indicated that investigations into a recent sabotage attempt in the city point to the existence of a new Jewish "underground."

Jerusalem radio also cited an official announcement that security forces have arrested an Arab "terrorist ring" in the Tulkarm region of Samaria.

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Politburo on Growths, Shortcomings in Nangarhar*LD190046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari**1600 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been held. The Politburo assessed the work and activities of the party provincial committee of Nangarhar Province, concerning the implementation of the organizational and political issues in light of the 19th plenum's demands.

The Politburo pointed out that the party provincial committee of Nangarhar Province has carried out specified duties in various spheres toward implementation of the 19th plenum's decisions. Reconstruction affairs, growth of criticism and self-criticism, objective assessment of the activities of the party committees and primary organizations, and discussion of the tasks discussed in the 20th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, have been dealt with in a special manner by the provincial party committee in Nangarhar.

As a result of joint activities by the Zonal Defense Council of the provincial party committee and Armed Forces units in Nangarhar Province, decisive blows have been inflicted on the armed counterrevolutionaries in Kameh, Dakkah, and (?Maru), and their ammunition and storage places have been destroyed.

In holding elections to local organs and state administration, training and education issues, public health, culture, industry, transportation, communications, and land reform and water, specified successes have also been achieved.

Control over the implementation of the plenum's resolutions has improved. The level of demands from the members of party has increased. The campaign against negative phenomena such as bribery, embezzlement, and other misuse has been advanced.

The Politburo pointed out that despite the accomplished work, there are shortcomings and weaknesses in the work of the Nangarhar Provincial Party Committee. The conscription plan for the Armed Forces has not been implemented regularly and systematically. The party committee has not adequately used its possibilities in crushing the counterrevolutionaries in some regions. The expansion and consolidation of state power has been slow. The party provincial committee has not implemented the socioeconomic growth plans with necessary effect, as result of which some productive establishments have not implemented their plans.

Work has been weak in attracting the party trademen, small landholders, national businessmen, theologians, local influentials, leaders of tribes, women and inhabitants of border tribes.

In connection with training cadres, improvement of the activities of the literacy courses and work among teachers and students, possibilities have not been used effectively.

The Politburo gave specific instruction for removal of these shortcomings to the party provincial committee and concerned state bodies of Nangarhar Province.

The issue of receiving compatriots in Delkosha Palace, organizational issues, cadre issues, and a number of domestic and international issues were also assessed in this Politburo session.

Armed Forces Crush Rebels in Nangarhar*LD181843 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto**1530 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Another group of counterrevolutionaries who had nested in Dehbala subdistrict, Nangarhar Province, in order to carry out terrorism and subversion, were crushed recently, as a result of successful operations carried out by the courageous Armed Forces. Their satanic nest was destroyed.

BIA's military correspondent reported that, as a result of these successful operations, 1,388 surface-to-surface missiles, 3 recoilless guns, 3 ZK-1's, 1 mortar, 1 antitank weapon, 3 heavy machine guns, 17 other weapons, 3 radios, 1 generator, 50 boxes of various ammunition, and 1 drilling machine were seized by the Armed Forces. Moreover, 35 enemy ammunition, foodstuff, and clothing depots together with 36 positions for resistance were destroyed.

The BIA military correspondent adds that a meeting held on this occasion by [word indistinct] inhabitants of Jalalabad City and the personnel of the companies involved in these combat activities, Chief of Staff of the DRA Armed Forces Major General Shahnawaz Tanay, recalled with appreciation the heroism and sacrifice of the personnel who took part in these combat activities. He commended those officers, NCO's, and men who displayed heroism during the operation and presented them with commendation certificates, gifts, and rewards.

Rebel Arms Depot Exploded, Six Killed*LD190625 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 19 Dec 86*

[Text] Kabul, December 18, BAKHTAR — A big depot of arms and ammunition belonging to Mavlavi Khales band was exploded in the area of Boghra mountain in Chaman, Quetta.

Six bandits attached to Mavlavi Khales band were killed and ten were injured. The arms and ammunition which were stockpiled in this depot were set to fire.

The reports reaching here say that one tractor loaded with the arms and ammunition of counter-revolutionaries was exploded in Parachinar region by the youth of Tori tribe and was destroyed.

The Tori youth also attacked for the second time the camps of Shah Kakh and Ghazgari belonging to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and inflicted heavy human and financial casualties to the residents of the camps.

Six persons were killed and twenty one injured in a bomb's blast in Peshawar City. The people of Peshawar City have staged protest demonstrations in which they have described the presence of the Afghan bandits as the reason for the lack of security of the people.

PRC Protest Casts 'Shadow' on Future Talks*BK171901 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1340 GMT 17 Dec 86*

[Text] Every single move China made regarding its border claim in the past 25 years had long-term strategic barometers. This seems to be special in the case when a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing characterized as illegal Indian parliament bill to confer statehood on Arunachal Pradesh straddling along the McMahon Line in the northwestern sector. The Chinese rejection of the bill almost ironically coincided with the fifth anniversary of first round of India-China official-level talks that began in Beijing on 10 December, 1981 to bring about a settlement of the border issue. So far seven rounds of talks have been held.

As far back as December 1959, China, through an official note, rejected India's position that the entire Sino-Indian boundary ran along the main watersheds. India has maintained that according to international usage a customary boundary which follows such unchanging natural feature stands defined that does not require formal definition by two sides. Much has happened since then. But the Chinese claim to Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining areas, spread over 128,000 square kilometers of Indian territory, continued to be pressed.

China nearly succeeded in debarring Indian participation in the Asian parliamentarians conference on population control held for the first time in Beijing in October 1981. The plea given by the Chinese side was that the speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh legislative assembly would not be allowed to be included in the Indian delegation. A last minute settlement of the issue enabled the speaker and other Indian parliamentarians to participate in the conference. China created another unseemly situation the following year on the concluding day of the Asian Games hosted by India in New Delhi. Obviously, Arunachal Pradesh as being part of India participated in the ASIAD. But the Chinese contingent could not accept the dance item presented by Arunachal dancers on the occasion and protested. The incident totally marred and blurred the achievements of the Chinese contingent which won 51 gold medals and proved the country as number one Asian sporting nation after years of [wandering in the] wilderness.

Of late, China has been speaking of the feelings of its people regarding the border issue. Commenting on adoption of Arunachal Pradesh by Indian parliament, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman conceded that a traditional customary boundary respected by two peoples had not taken shape on the basis of administrative jurisdiction. It is anybody's guess if China is attempting to clear their pitch to frustrate an early solution to the border question by pre-emptive protests. Almost on the morrow of the seventh round of India-China border talks in July this year, China threw the spanner by making fresh intrusions 7 kilometers deep inside the Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. Obviously, it cast a deep shadow over the talks.

What better proof could there be of Indian parliament step to confer statehood on Arunachal Pradesh than the state chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang's reaction to the Chinese protest. Mr Apang said the Chinese stand is unfortunate and (?assertive)

and I quote: We have no tie of any form with China and they have nothing to do with the welfare of Arunachal people.

The Chinese protest was unwarranted and ran counter to Beijing's protestation that it stood for a comprehensive settlement of the boundary question through friendly consultations. Not surprisingly, India reacted sharply to the Chinese protest calling it totally unacceptable and constituting a clear interference in the internal affairs of India. With the Chinese protest on the Arunachal Pradesh bill a long shadow is cast on the future round of border talks. India has not been averse to holding talks with China on the boundary issue. But to make the talks meaningful China must come forward with concrete proposals.

'Disturbed Area Belt' in Nagaland Reduced*BK181645 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] The center has decided to reduce the disturbed area belt in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh from 20 km to 5 km along the international boundary. A notification to this effect was issued in New Delhi today. Originally, only 5 km had been declared as disturbed in 1972. The area was increased to 20 km in October last year to allow the Army to operate in a wider belt for controlling insurgency by Naga rebels who have been operating from across the border.

'Struggle' Against Terrorism in Punjab Urged*BK180101 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has stressed the need for launching a collective struggle against terrorism in the state by rising above petty politics and other narrow considerations. He was replying to a discussion in the assembly on the law and order situation. He called for the isolation of those who are encouraging such activities. The chief minister said a 10-member committee has been set up to persuade the families which have left the state to return to their homes.

Mr Barnala urged the center to ask Pakistan through diplomatic channels not to help terrorists in Punjab. He announced that the government will provide security to judicial officers dealing with cases of terrorism. The motion was tabled by all political parties. Members expressed their concern over the deteriorating law and order situation. They called for implementation of the Punjab accord, security of life and property of people, and strengthening of patriotic and secular forces.

'Terrorists' Apprehended on Border With Pakistan*BK181642 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] A BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party apprehended two hardcore terrorists on the Indo-Pak border when they were trying to cross over into Pakistan on Tuesday [16 December]. A press release in New Delhi says that preliminary inquiries have revealed that one of them has recently returned to India after

receiving training in handling of small arms at a camp near Sialkot. The terrorists disclosed that they had brought some arms and ammunition from Pakistan which were delivered to the AISSF [All India Sikh Student Federation] leaders in the Golden Temple complex.

USSR 'Expert' Says War No Cost to Moscow

BK191205 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English
11 Dec 86 p 6

[Article by Richard Ehrlich [not further identified] "Who Is Bearing the Cost of Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan?"]

[Text] New Delhi, India — A senior Soviet official says the war in Afghanistan does not cost Moscow "one cent," because the Afghans are supplying natural gas and other products to the Soviet Union.

The statement by Yuriy Gankovskiy, a Soviet expert on Afghanistan, marked the first time any Soviet official has said the war in Afghanistan does not cost the Kremlin money.

Moscow has consistently given the impression the war is a sacrifice by Soviet citizens doing their "internationalist duty" to aid the Kabul government that "invited" Soviet troops to enter in 1979.

Western diplomats and Afghan resistance fighters, however, have frequently charged that the Soviets are exploiting Afghanistan's natural gas, dried fruits, Persian lamb pelts, carpets, and cotton.

One Western diplomat, who described Mr Gankovskiy's remarks as "bizarre," said the Russians may be trying to dispel the impression in the West that the war in Afghanistan is financially draining Moscow.

Mr Gankovskiy, who formed part of Mikhail Gorbachev's delegation during the Soviet leader's Nov 25-28 visit to New Delhi, also denied Soviet soldiers are committing atrocities in Afghanistan. Mr Gankovskiy said the only innocent Afghans being killed are those unintentionally caught in cross fire or attacked by U.S. backed resistance fighters.

Diplomats and international organizations frequently report Soviet atrocities, including the destruction of villages, indiscriminate use of chemical weapons and antipersonnel explosive devices resembling toys, and Soviet presence at the torture of rebel captives.

Mr Gankovskiy said he has specialized in Afghan affairs for the past 25 years and makes frequent trips to the war-torn nation.

Mr Gankovskiy is head of the Near and Middle East Department in the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences; he also specializes in Iran, Pakistan, Northern India, and Bangladesh.

Mr Gankovskiy said in a taped interview that Afghanistan does not pay in cash, "but on the clearing basis, we are paid for everything which we are sending to Afghanistan."

Asked if this includes all costs of the war in Afghanistan, Mr Gankovskiy replied. "It is impossible to pay for blood, but all our expenses, I stress 'all' twice, are paid by Afghanistan."

"And may I say how? There is a giant gas field in the northern part of Afghanistan, and by supplying the gas, Afghanistan is paying us for everything."

"Believe me, I know that I say. [sentence as published]"

I have now no records here, no files, so I don't want to give you incorrect figures, but the fact I know."

"It means we are supplying Afghanistan with cars, with weapons, with some kinds of food, and with shoes," he said.

"We have very good trade with Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is supplying us not only with gas. Gas is first of all, but also with fruit, with skins and agriculture, cotton."

Asked if it were thus correct to say the war does not cost Moscow any money, Mr Gankovskiy said, "To say frankly, not one cent. And this is reality."

When the Soviet troops first intervened in Afghanistan, Afghan resistance forces charged that in addition to Moscow's strategic goals, the Kremlin wanted to exploit the country's relatively untapped natural gas fields and other resources, including mineral deposits.

In an interview with Indian journalists broadcast in India and published by the Soviet news agency TASS No 23, Mr Gorbachev said, "we are neither going to have any bases nor are we looking for raw materials in Afghanistan."

The Western diplomat, reacting to Mr Gankovskiy's statements, said, "It sounds like a calculated effort by the Russians to counteract the notion they feel prevails in the West that if you can keep the war going, you can economically drain them until they leave."

"We believe it is costing Moscow a significant amount of money, but if they want to stay there, they can afford to stay. We do not believe you can bleed the Soviets economically and militarily into withdrawing," the diplomat said.

Mr Gankovskiy also said that though the Afghan Government's leaders seized power in a series of coups before Soviet troops arrived, the communist Afghan regime still had a right to represent Afghanistan.

"Don't apply European or American standards to societies like (the) Afghan society," he said, when asked about Babrak Karmal. Mr Karmal became Afghanistan's Marxist leader in a coup as Soviet troops rushed into the country seven years ago. He recently lost power and was replaced by the Soviet-trained security chief, Najibullah, who uses only one name but sometimes is called Mohammad Najibullah.

"Afghanistan was not and is not a parliamentary republic in the Western sense of the word, no question about it. Afghan people had and have no tradition of this kind," Mr Gankovskiy said.

"Of course you are right, there were no elections, there was no plebiscite. But there is real support" for the Marxist Afghan Government, he said.

USSR Envoy Optimistic About Afghan Solution
BK190123 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
 11 Dec 86 p 8

[Text] Karachi, Dec 10 — Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul-Rakhman Khalil Ogly Vezirov, who expressed deep optimism about a political settlement of Afghan question in the 'near future', said 'people may hear good news very soon.'

He was replying to questions by newsmen after his address at 'Meet the Press' programme at the Karachi Press Club here this afternoon.

Asked to explain reasons for his optimism Vezirov said the Soviet people are generally optimistic, and listed following points in support of his hopefulness.

(a) Positive developments inside Afghanistan such as successful process of reconciliation, reforms pertaining to land and other sectors of life (b) Realisation that the war being waged from outside is senseless and not going to succeed (c) A general desire everywhere for a settlement (d) UN Representative Cordovez has himself stressed the progress made in the talks and (e) The very fact that: Kabul and Islamabad have agreed to go to Geneva again.

He, however, refuted Western propaganda that the only problem to be solved in regard to Afghanistan was forcing the Soviets to withdraw their troops. He said troop withdrawal is interlinked with the stoppage of 'interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan'. He said the Soviet Union by withdrawal [as published] six regiments unilaterally has proved its sincerity to have a political settlement at the earliest.

He said Mr Gorbachev in his statements in New Delhi has made it abundantly clear that the Soviet Union wanted to see Afghanistan as a secure, independent and non-aligned state, he pointed out.

Replying to a question he said Afghanistan is not a socialist state but passing through a 'National Democratic Revolution'.

He told a questioner that it was 'at the Soviet initiative that Pakistan's Foreign Secretary visited Moscow and had talks with the Deputy Foreign Minister and he is confident that the outcome of these talks would further improve relations between the two countries.

He denied a suggestion that the Soviet proposal for Asian security was aimed at 'establishing Soviet hegemony in Asia' and said it was the reverse of it as the proposal provided guarantees against 'hegemony of any one country over the others; according to him the Soviet scheme envisages a nuclear free Pacific and a nuclear free Indian Ocean.

Asked to explain the factors behind the recent internal changes in Afghanistan such as replacement of Babrak Karmal etc. Vezirov said the Kabul administration is striving for a grand reconciliation, it is proceeding with speedy development activities such as land reforms etc. and improving defence as well as economic situation. He said it was because of improvement in defence situation that the Soviet Union was able to withdraw six regiments.

He told a questioner that contradictions within the capitalist world and those in the socialist camp are not similar. What happened in Hungary and Poland was issues connected with and arising out of 'development'. He said differences with China which is a socialist country have narrowed down and the two are developing friendlier relations.

Earlier he explained the fundamentals of Soviet foreign policy and said the main international task of the Soviet Government is to promote peaceful co-existence and make the world free of nuclear and destructive weapons. Messrs Aftab Syed and Sabihuddin Ghausi, President and Secretary of the Karachi Press club respectively welcomed the distinguished guest.

Saudi Defense Minister Ends Visit, Departs
BK180620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
 0600 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz left Islamabad this morning for home after a 2-day visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and senior officials.

Curfew Lifted, Relaxed in Some Karachi Areas
BK181737 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
 1700 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Karachi administration has lifted curfew from Baldia town site and Pir Mangho police station areas. Curfew will be relaxed in the rest of the curfew-bound areas of Karachi District west from 0700 to 0900 and 1300 to 1500 tomorrow. Curfew will be relaxed in Landhi, Korangi, Malir, (Jet) colony, and Sohrab Goth areas from 0700 to 0900 and from noon to 1500. Curfew will be relaxed in Sabzi Mandi from 0700 to 1000 and from noon to 1500. And in (Jet Line) from noon to 1500. The situation was normal in the whole city today. It is officially announced in Hyderabad that curfew will be relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad areas from noon to 1600.

Kalashnikov Ammunition Seized in Karachi
BK181531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
 1500 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Police seized about 42,500 cartridges which are used in Kalashnikov rifles, in Karachi today. Official sources say that an inquiry is underway and efforts are being taken to nab the key culprit.

U.S. 'Objectives' Detailed in Friday Prayers

*LD191329 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Dec 86*

[Text] The political-religious Friday prayer rites were observed throughout the country today. The citizens of Tehran, too, with their vast presence at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, today observed Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During Tehran's Friday prayers ceremonies, also attended by Sudan's Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, together with the high-ranking Sudanese delegation, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his second Friday prayers sermon referring to the fiasco suffered by the vast U.S. efforts aimed at establishing links with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], said:

Despite the admission by imperialist and Zionist media of the fiasco of U.S. attempts to establish links with Iran, they are pursuing two objectives: First, they wish to attribute the outcome of the imposed war, which is victory by the IRI, to U.S. weapons, and not to the Iranian nation; and, just as McFarlane has said, the United States cannot tolerate an Iranian victory: the United States is attempting to render Iran's victory suspect by such manner of propaganda.

Their second objective, since they fear that other countries, too, will be embroiled in the struggle against world arrogance, is their attempt to say that the IRI is not against arrogance and and is not anti-U.S. By this, they mean to beset the Third World nations with vacillations regarding their own struggles against world arrogance.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, referring to the regret felt by U.S. bosses about the stances adopted by that country toward the IRI since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, said: In spite of all its might, the West has suffered defeat at the hands of Iran; this is the greatest achievement by the Islamic Revolution in Iran and in the history of world revolution.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly also said: The illegal entry of McFarlane and his associates, bearing false Irish passports, into Iran demonstrates the helplessness of the United States vis-a-vis Iran; in the course of these events, they told so many lies, showing their willingness to sacrifice the interests of the U.S. nation to their interests. They imagined that other nations cannot stand up to the United States, but it became clear that, should a nation refuse to be afraid and resist, it could inflict the same scourge on the United States that the latter wants to inflict on them, and thereby bring about a crisis situation for the United States — just as the Italian Government, after the propaganda insult, apologized to the IRI; and the Italian prime minister, too, in connection with the arrest of the Iranian ship in Italian waters, personally declared the action unlawful and released the said ship.

Referring to U.S. admissions to passing on intelligence gained from its spy satellites on the warfronts to the Iraqi regime, and the fact that Reagan admitted that he had no documents in his

possession on Iran's participation in terrorist operations, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: When responsible officials of the IRI inform the nation of various problems, they speak with the truth and with candor. We do not trample underfoot our principles for any any price whatsoever. Our nation's concerted stand, thanks to the rule by the Supreme Canonist and the leadership of the imam, is reliant on the belief and faith of the people. The fact that the system of the IRI, as the best system for human societies, has strongly and steadfastly stood the propaganda bombardment of Islam's enemies, constitutes one of the glorious achievements of the IRI.

Referring to the superpowers' strong objection to Iran's victory, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: The superpowers and the Western world do not want the war to come to an end, they want the war to continue as it is so that, as it were, by establishing an imposed peace, they could attain their goals. But they should know that the only path toward a genuine peace is the complete victory of the IRI in the war. What we have to say to the United States, which is making efforts to establish links with the IRI, is that it should hand over the billions of dollars of our blocked assets. We are also calling on the Lebanese Muslims to free the U.S. hostages! The United States, however, should not call for the establishment of ties with Iran, since that is a separate issue!

In this second sermon, referring to the conference of Iraqi dissidents in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are ready to make use of all our capabilities for the liberation of the Iraqi people; and our Iraqi brothers should make the decision and lay the foundations to Iraq's Constitution so that one of the conditions for our fateful offensive aimed at achieving final victory could be brought about.

Continuing his second sermon and referring to the recent OPEC meeting and the Iraqi regime's objection to reducing the production level and increasing the price of oil, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: We expect OPEC to reduce the oil production quotas whereby through a 10 percent reduction, incomes could be increased by 30 percent; and we hope that Saudi Arabia, too, would cooperate towards this end.

In his Friday prayers today, in connection with the Day of Unity Between the Religious Seminaries and the Universities and the anniversary of the martyred professor Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid tribute to the valuable services rendered by that worthy martyr.

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Inspects Defense Industry

LD181610 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Visiting Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi conferred with Defense Minister Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali here Thursday. Jalali said the meeting was an outset for expansion of Tehran-Khartoum relations to continue within the common goals of the two Muslims countries.

Later in the day Al-Mahdi who also holds Sudan's defense portfolio, accompanied by Colonel Jalali, inspected one of the

military factories under the umbrella of the defense industries organisation. Jalali said the organisation is a major arm of the Islamic Republic's military industries established in a bid to attain self-sufficiency and industrial independence. Significant developments have so far been achieved in this area, he said.

Jalali said the anti-Islamic forces are hatching plots against Sudan aimed at disrupting the Islamic identity of its Muslim country. "We are confident that Sudan would never allow them to succeed," he added.

In reply Al-Mahdi said that transfer of military technology from industrial states in fact increases the dependence of a developing country instead of beefing-up its military power. "But what we are witnessing here proves that military technology has been correctly employed in Iran," Al-Mahdi said.

Models of weapons manufactured in the defense industries organisation were presented to the Sudanese prime minister and his accompanying entourage at the end of the inspection.

Al-Mahdi heading a delegation arrived here Wednesday at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

Received by Khamene'i

*LD182013 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister and Defense Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is presently in Tehran heading a political-economic and cultural high-ranking delegation, met with President Khamene'i this afternoon. Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Musavi; special presidential advisor Mir Salim; Deputy Prime Minister for political affairs Mo'ayyeri; the minister of mines and metals; three members of the National Assembly of Sudan; and the diplomatic envoys of the two countries. At the meeting, the Sudanese prime minister began by expressing his pleasure at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and also at closely observing the glorious aspects of the Islamic Revolution.

He said: We are happy to see the Islamic Revolution finding a firm place for itself in the world arena. Praising the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated: All Islamic movements in the world have been founded on divine ideals, but great powers have always used all their resources to try block the way. Conflict between right and falsehood is a necessary and fateful phenomenon.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also said: We are pleased to see that your Islamic Revolution has a beneficial aspect for all; it seeks to revive the genuine culture of the Islamic countries, to aid and assist the oppressed, to attain self-reliance and independence in technology, and to mobilize the public to reach their own righteous goals. We strongly pursue our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran not only in political fields but also in ideological and intellectual fields, strengthening and expanding them.

Concluding his speech, the Sudanese prime minister expressed interest in expanding and diversifying bilateral relations. He

called his visit a factor in expanding those relations, expressing hope that the level of contacts will be further enlarged.

President Khamene'i, responding to the Sudanese prime minister, stressed the existence of spiritual, intellectual, and emotional [as heard] relations between Iran and Sudan. He welcomed the expansion of relations, and said: The strong roots of the Islamic movement that oppose the global arrogance in Sudan induces in us a feeling of closer relations with your country. Therefore, we are urging a maximum expansion of cooperation with your country. Stressing the necessity for Muslim unity in confrontation against aggressions by global arrogance, Khamene'i added: Today, an example of such unity among various sects of Islam in our country can be used as a model for Muslims of the world. Today in some countries actions are taken in the name of Islam, but in actuality, are against Islam. We believe that Islam is a religion that grants people integrity and correct vision while being in the service of the oppressed and the deprived. It fights against enemies of humanity and arrogant powers. In every Islamic country not doing this, Islamic ideals are being ignored.

In conclusion, the president stressed the necessity for efforts by the Islamic countries to establish strong and serious cooperation in confronting aggressions arising from the world of arrogance and colonialism. He said: Today, in all places from North Africa to Asia to the Middle East, global arrogance is in an aggressive mode and is advancing. Resistance against such widescale aggression is not possible except by unity among all countries motivated to confront global arrogance.

Attends Sudanese Embassy Reopening

LD190952 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 19, IRNA — The Sudanese Embassy in Tehran was reopened in a special ceremony attended by the visiting Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Friday morning. The embassy was closed down following the support of the former regime in Sudan for the Iraqi regime in its imposed-war against Iran.

The ceremony was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, members of the delegation accompanying the Sudanese premier, officials from the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Prime Ministry, and also foreign diplomatic staff in Tehran. Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi hoisted the Sudanese flag at the embassy.

Relations between the two countries at present will be at charge d'affaires level, however, the ambassadors of the two countries are to be appointed in the near future. The Sudanese charge d'affaires to Tehran, Ahmed Faqir, is said to become his country's ambassador to Tehran. After downfall of the Numayri's regime, the new Sudanese Government adopted a new policy towards Iran as a result of which mutual relations were improved. The government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is neutral in the Iraqi-imposed war and Iran has since then sent aid to the famine stricken of Sudan and also dispatched Iranian teams of experts and specialists to that country for oil related activities.

Sudanese Energy Minister Discusses Oil, POW's*LD182124 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Visiting Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister Adam Madibu discussed purchase of Iranian oil, release of the Sudanese POW's in Iran, as well as other political and economic issues with Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi here Thursday. Four committees have been established in order to review Tehran-Khartoum cooperation in the aforesaid fields.

Later Madibu accompanied by Ayatollahi inspected Iran's geology organisation and was briefed on the geological maps with different scales as well as a map of the Middle East approved at the Moscow Geological Congress and a Middle East map in Persian, English, and Arab languages.

Madibu is accompanying Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on his four-day visit here. The Sudanese delegation arrived here Wednesday.

Visiting Indian Official Meets Mirzadeh*LD182019 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Visiting Indian Minister of State for Industrial Affairs Arunachalam expressed his country's keen desire on expansion of economic relations with Iran in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh here Thursday. In the meeting, Mirzadeh said that matters of common interest between the two countries call for expansion of mutual ties. Economic relations and technical cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi should suit the size of the two big countries, he added.

The Islamic Republic will soon achieve a glorious victory in the Iraqi-imposed war through solid defense and tactical repulsion of the aggressor, Mirzadeh said. "Aggressors against regional countries will be given a sound lesson forever," he added. Mirzadeh also expressed Iran's readiness for expansion of mutually advantageous trade exchange with friendly countries.

It was announced in the session that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati would soon visit India to participate in the Irano-Indian joint economic commission.

Received by Velayati*LD182329 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday welcomed cooperation with South Asian countries in the framework of regional cooperation and offered Iran's services to solve any misunderstandings among member states to preserve the region's political stability. Speaking in a meeting with the visiting Indian minister of state for industrial affairs, Arunachalam, the foreign minister hoped that talks between the Indian delegation and Iranian officials would be fruitful.

The state minister said that India has numerous opportunities for the expansion of relations with Iran which could be investigated during the forthcoming joint Iran-India commission to be held in New Delhi.

The Indian state minister arrived here Tuesday night.

Chairman of Iraq Opposition Outlines Conference*LD181526 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] Sayyid 'Ali Jamal al-Hashimi, chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi Nation, in a meeting with press correspondents announced the salient points of the plans of the five committees of this conference, attended by all the Muslim forces and groups fighting against the Iraqi Zionist regime, to be held from 3d Dey this year for 5 days in Tehran [from 24 December 1986 for 5 days].

The chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi Nation referred to the main aim of the conference as being the unity and coordination of the fighting Iraqi forces and deciding Iraq's future after Saddam's downfall and said: The conference participants, expressing their viewpoints, making speeches, and putting forward various articles will make decisions in five committees about various problems of struggle.

He added: In the committee for studying Iraq's future, strategy discussions and an exchange of views will take place on the main elements of Iraq's future system, particularly the right of the Iraqi people to determine Iraq's political future; being independent; safeguarding the territorial integrity; national unity and the antiarrogant nature of the future Iraqi regime; struggle against Zionism and efforts to liberate Jerusalem; and strengthening relations with the Islamic and progressive countries.

The chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi Nation then mentioned another committee of the conference, the committee for studying the methods of political struggle against the Iraqi ruling regime in the international arena — by showing documents on the crimes perpetrated by the Saddam regime to international forums — and said: The committee will also study the position of Iraqi refugees on a world level and will demonstrate the Iraqi regime's inhuman methods in this connection.

He referred to the committee studying the imposed war as another committee of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi Nation and said: While analyzing the reasons for the Iraqi regime's aggression against the fledgling system of the Islamic Republic, the committee will also appraise the role played by imperialism in imposing the war on the Islamic Republic.

The chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi Nation referred to the study of the ways of stepping up armed operations inside Iraqi soil as the working axis of the conference's fourth committee and said: The committee will study the stepping up of armed operations by Muslim Iraqi fighters against the Zionist regime ruling Iraq and will decide the quality of armed struggle, delivering the necessary capabilities to the fighters

within Iraq and bringing about coordination and unity between the armed fighters and armed operations against the Iraqi regime.

He referred to the conference's fifth committee as studying human rights in Iraq, particularly the position of the missing and untraceable Iraqi nationals, and said: 'The committee will study the inhuman actions and crimes perpetrated by the Saddam regime against the Iraqi people, also the POW's, prison conditions and torture in Iraq, and all this will be demonstrated to the world peoples and international forums with the help of documents and proof.'

SAIRI Spokesman Stresses Militant Unity

*LD182121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Dec 86*

[Text] On the third day and the fifth session of the General Assembly of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Rahmani, the official responsible for the Guards Corps Basij, described the present situation of the Iraqi combatants and mujahidin. He said: 'The extensive facilities that exist in Iran for the Iraqi combatants should be utilized in the best possible manner. The Islamic Revolution of Iraq should rely on and arise from the people, so that there will be sufficient guarantees for its survival.'

According to this report, during the session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi, spokesman for the SAIRI, stressed the need for unity among the combative Iraqi forces in order to achieve the sublime goals of the holy jihad to overthrow the Zionist regime of Iraq and to establish an Islamic government in that country. The SAIRI spokesman referred to the forthcoming conference on cooperation with the Iraqi people and called for more coordination between Muslim forces, especially the SAIRI.

Larijani Tells Majlis Speaker of Pakistan Visit

LD181840 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani briefed Majlis Speaker Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday on his recent visit to Pakistan and his talks with that country's President Ziaul Haq.

In a meeting with Rafsanjani here, Larijani also reported on the upcoming meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Kuwait as well as the 'Afghan issue.' Stressing on Iran's support for Afghan Muslim nation as a logical stand, the Majlis speaker termed the role of the Islamic Republic in the resolving of this issue as effective.

On the OIC meet, Rafsanjani noted that the conference should deal with the main issues of the world of Islam in a healthy atmosphere. Hence, he went on, any move aimed at polluting the air of understanding in the conference would be condemned.

Larijani had visited Pakistani last week.

Holds Press Conference on Visit

LD182113 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Iran will utilise its influence to end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and bring into office a government [word indistinct]. On the resolute vote of the Muslim nation of that country, [word indistinct] Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, here Thursday.

Larijani who had been to Pakistan last week for discussions on the Afghan issue said in a press conference here that Iran and Pakistan greatly suffered the consequences of Afghanistan's occupation and the security of both countries has been practically jeopardized due to the Soviet presence. He described Iran's stand towards Afghanistan as 'logical' and 'firm' and welcomed the speedy withdrawal of Soviet [word indistinct] from that country. He stressed that the Afghan issue should not be solved in East-West equations. Iran believes that no foreign country should impose itself on Afghanistan adding that the future government c. Afghanistan should be independent, non-aligned, and supported by the Muslim people of that country.

Among other issues discussed with Pakistani officials, said Larijani, was the forthcoming summit meet of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuwait. He said the country hosting the OIC meet, whenever the venue may be, shoulders grave responsibility as the world of Islam is being attacked from all sides by global oppressors.

On the Iraqi imposed war, Larijani said that both the West and East have realized the necessity of elimination of tension in the region, in view of the imminent victory of Iran over the Iraqi regime. Thus, he said, it is necessary that the neighbouring and other countries be informed of the general trend of the issues beforehand.

In conclusion, he said that the Iran-Pakistan-Turkey tripartite economic cooperation commission will be held here within the next few months, to further expand cooperation in economic, technical, scientific, and trade fields and transit issues.

Majlis Speaker Cites 'Huge Fuss' Over Arms

PM181437 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Dec 86 p 2

[Untitled report by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent in Hormozgan Province]

[Text] A meeting, attended by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was held in Kish island's Shayan hotel to discuss welfare and economic projects. Also taking part in the meeting were the deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs, the governor general of Hormozgan Province, and a further group of national officials.

First, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Executive Affairs Mirzadeh gave a report on Kish island's welfare projects and said the programs for the island were within the framework of the general movement in the country aimed at increasing the local population's income.

He commented on a government directive with regard to exports and imports of goods from and to the island: In accordance with this directive all permitted goods, all goods permitted but with certain conditions, all goods purchased with hard currency, and other items purchased in exchange for exported goods can be brought to and taken from Kish without paying customs fees or trade charges.

He added that the selling of goods on Kish island is bound by export and import laws and any traveler entering Kish is allowed to take off the island goods totaling up to 50,000 rials. The deputy prime minister then elaborated on the special qualities of the government plans for Kish.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued the meeting by confirming the welfare plans already accomplished in Kish. He stressed the need for further cooperation among executive officials in this regard. He added: Implementing this plan is to the advantage of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the entire region. By strengthening fishing in the area and by supporting the natives of the island we can push the country's consumer habits toward utilizing high-protein foodstuffs. This way we can also create employment.

The meeting participants also talked about paying back the sum owed by the Kish welfare office, which is the result of wrong policies in the previous regime. It was decided that this office should pay back its loans to the Mellat Bank, with the help of the Central Bank and by increasing its trade and production.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his tour of Kish island by making an appearance at the island's Air Force base. He gave a speech to an audience of base personnel and commented on the Islamic Republic of Iran's special position, the economic importance of the Persian Gulf, and the continued successes of the Islamic warriors.

He stressed that the Persian Gulf enjoys a unique position in the world. He talked about the efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in coordinating military and economic activities on the island. He said: According to reports received, at present some 12,000 tons of fish are being caught and, considering the vast resources and weather conditions of the Persian Gulf, adequate use is being made of these resources.

The Majlis speaker talked about the U.S. desperation and lack of success with regard to establishing ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said this defeat was because of the sacrifices and awareness of the people and the Armed Forces. This defeat, he said, had brought the Great Satan to a position of humility. The humility that the United States and Britain have toward us today is unprecedented in history, he said.

Concerning the situation on the war fronts, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: We are in a very good position when it comes to the war fronts.

He stressed that every inch of our Islamic homeland is precious to us and added: Today, the Americans and others are not around to boss us. Addressing the military personnel, he added:

You have to be very aware, because today the revolution and the leadership put their trust in you.

The Majlis speaker arrived in Bandar-e 'Abbas yesterday afternoon to witness a naval maneuver in the Persian Gulf. He was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, the Imam's representative and the Friday imam of Bandar-e 'Abbas; Hojjat ol-Eslam Anvari, the Majlis deputy from Hormozgan Province; Colonel Sohrabi, commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Captain Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy [ranks, titles as published]; the Majlis deputy for Bandar-e 'Abbas and Minab; and military and local officials of the province.

The Majlis speaker was welcomed on his arrival by a military honor guard and was presented with flowers by the child of a martyr.

According to this report the speaker of the Majlis then attended an administrative meeting of Hormozgan Province, attended by the governor general and other provincial officials.

Last night, the Majlis speaker attended a meeting of local officials and gave a speech commenting on the extraordinary importance of Hormozgan Province. He said: Because of its unique location, Hormozgan Province has an important role in the country. The fact that the area needs more attention is quite clear.

He then talked about the special position of the country and the continuation of the war and said: Islamic Iran is engaged in a historic and unprecedented war. For the past 8 years it has tolerated a full-scale war and is facing all the powers of the world. This war is no ordinary one, where two sides fight and everyone looks on. Our enemy is being supplied by all the colonialists. For the past 8 years they have given Iraq the most sophisticated weapons. France gives Super Etandard planes and the Soviets give MiG-25's and rockets, and no one says anything about this.

But the issue raised recently, when someone gave us a small quantity of arms which they themselves said did not total more than one plane-load, caused the whole world to make a huge fuss and question the United States. The Soviets who have given arms to the Iraqis for the past 8 years say that the United States does not want the war to end. It must be said that none of them wants the war to end.

The Majlis speaker stressed: The world is not neutral in this war. The United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union are not neutral in this war. The United States has given \$700 million in credit and some helicopters to Iraq, which have an effect on the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the propaganda against the Islamic Revolution is the result of cooperation between the Zionists and the imperialist media. He said: The Zionists and the imperialist media have taken their position in this war against us, and it is a great, historic epic that Iran has defeated this plot and has rubbed its enemies' noses in the dirt.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said that the U.S. leaders' weak point is the Iranian people's resis-

tance. He said: We have resisted for 8 years and now the Americans, including Republicans, Democrats, the White House, the Senate, the Congress, and the CIA, despite all their mischief, all say unanimously that Iran is a place they must have relations with. The people who are now saying this are the same people who once claimed that we supported terrorism and that we were doomed.

The Majlis speaker said: The Soviet Union is a powerful country and it is very angry with us over Afghanistan. We say: "Your troops are in Afghanistan, so this is how we will treat you." We destroyed their elements, the Tudeh Party, and we stood against their aggressive policies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: If the Iranian people wanted to have no problems, then they should not have resisted and should have surrendered. But because we have tolerated these problems we have to be satisfied that we have chosen the right path. We show the proper place that Iran should have in the world, and our brother officials should be encouraged and, with the help of God, should carry on with their duties.

The Majlis speaker said that the reason welfare projects are continuing in the deprived areas of the country in wartime conditions lies in the Islamic Republic's power and the people's steadfastness. He said that he hoped that with more awareness on behalf of officials, the people's unity will be constantly strengthened.

Magazine on West's Ploy of Linking Iran, Israel

LD181604 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 18, IRNA — The allegations that Iran has been buying weapons from Israel is of crucial importance for the survival of the Zionist state, according to the *Crescent* magazine.

In a review of the mushrooming saga over the U.S. supplying arms to Iran, the bimonthly publication notes that a mythical Israeli link has turned out to be the central theme, which, it suggests, is exactly the intentions of the West and world Zionism. For their propaganda purposes, the magazine says, "the world must believe that nobody is going to fight Israel, that Israel is invincible, that Israel controls everybody."

Crescent recalls that it was the Americans and the Zionist regime who together got the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn [to] invade the Islamic Republic "hoping that Iran would be destroyed before it destroyed Israel." But, it says, with Saddam about to fall, the calculation has misfired, opening up the road to al-Quds (Jerusalem).

The Canadian-based magazine stipulates that Muslim masses throughout the world want Palestine and Jerusalem liberated, which Iran has committed itself to being the single greatest goal of any Islamic country. It is within this context that the present spate of propaganda is seen by the bimonthly, which it perceives as being designed to convince the Muslim masses that the Islamic Republic is, in effect, no different from other Arab and Muslim countries. The allegations are intended to present the Islamic

leaders in Tehran as being "just as hypocritical as other Muslim rulers," it says.

Crescent has observed that it has now become necessary for the West to represent Iran, on the eve of its victory over Saddam's Iraq, as the victor over a small state. It states that the victory will not be portrayed as that of Islam against Kufr [blasphemy] but only as Iran's over Iraq. "The Israelis and the West want the world, especially the Muslim world, to believe that nothing has changed, that Iran has only emerged as [the] local bully" and that Islam in Iran is little more than a slogan, just as in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan, and elsewhere, the magazine proposes.

It expands the fantasy scenario that Iran, too, will one day sign a peace agreement with the Zionist regime, along with other Arab leaders, who are currently arguing who should be next after Egypt.

Italy's Craxi Orders Release of Detained Ship

LD181931 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Rome, Dec 18 IRNA — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Thursday ordered Italian port officials to release the Iranian cargo ship *Iran Jihad*, detained at the port of Genoa since last Saturday. Officials of the port had seized the ship under the false pretext that an Iranian national on board wanted to seek asylum in Italy. The Iranian stowaway has already refuted the claim. Craxi told reporters that he had ordered the officials to complete the formalities for the ship's departure from the port.

Ship Leaves; Tehran To File Suit

LD190930 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Rome, Dec 19, IRNA — The Iranian commercial ship *Iran Jihad* forced to remain in the northern Italian port of Genoa since Dec 11, was allowed by the Italian officials to leave the port early Friday morning. The ship which anchored at the port Dec 4, was ready to disembark the port Dec 11 when the port authorities prevented it from continuing its voyage on [the] baseless reason that a man on board wanted to seek political asylum from the Italian Government. [passage omitted]

Thursday night Craxi announced that he has issued the necessary orders for departure of the ship which was stopped at the port in defiance of the protest of its captain. Craxi said that he had given instructions to the Italian Internal Affairs Ministry in this respect. He said that the matter was studied carefully and that [the] decision to release it was made on the basis of international regulations and the 1958 Geneva Convention. The Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman in an interview with IRNA here Thursday had said that all measures had been taken for the departure of the ship.

The Iranian Embassy in Rome, in a statement issued Friday announced departure of the vessel and condemned the illegal action of the Italian Government in detaining it. The embassy protested against illegal entry of Italian police and coastal officials to the vessel which under international regulations is considered an Iranian territory. The statement said that the Italian

Government must provide an answer for its illegal measure. The vessel, it added was detained because of unfounded rumours that an Iranian smuggled into the ship wanted to ask for political asylum from the Italian Government. The statement categorically denied the rumour and said that said person had never made such a request.

The Iranian charge d'affaires to Rome, Mohammad Reza Entezari, speaking to IRNA here Friday, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will file a law suit against the Italian Government for its detention of the ship. He referred to international regulations including the 1958 Geneva Convention and said that illegal entry of the Italian police and coastal guards to [the] vessel was a violation against Iran. He said that throughout detention of the ship at Genoa two Italian guards remained on board without the consent of its captain. The ship was prevented from continuing its journey with no convincing reason and only on the bases of rumours spread by the Iranian counterrevolutionary Monafeqin (MKO). As a result, Entezari added, in addition to disruption of the loading schedule of the ship great financial loss has been caused.

Navy Captain Praises Prowess During Exercise

LD182131 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Dec 18, IRNA — Operational commander of the five day 'Zolfaqar' naval maneuvers outlined the degree of readiness of Iranian naval buoyant units, Wednesday. The maneuvers started on Dec 12 in the Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, and also the Oman Sea, were code-named 'Zolfaqar', after the famous two-blade sword of Imam 'Ali (AS) the first imam of the Shi'ite Muslims.

Naval Commander, Captain Pour-Hussein-zade [name as received] said that the units participating in these maneuvers enjoyed a very high military prowess compared with the former ones and displayed their abilities to counter the potential threats in the region which may become actual. He added that utilisation of all facilities by the light and heavy units in the maneuvers indicated the constant alertness of the naval forces to safeguard the vital sea lanes on the southern coast of Iran.

He said that the naval forces clocked the fastest speed in staging the assumed operation, adding that they showed their combat readiness to protect the islands, ports, and coasts of the country and to keep open the shipping lanes for Iranian ships and to close them to the enemy, if necessary.

The commander further said that with the strict control and supervision of the Strait of Hormuz by the Iranian Navy, the movement of ships carrying goods for Iraq has minimised and in fact they did not traffic [as received] so much these days.

Iraqi POW's Protest Against Red Cross Visit

LD182046 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Iraqi POW's in the Bojnurd Camp, Khorasan Province, expressed their resentment over the visit of officials of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to the camp.

According to an informed source here Wednesday during the visit the ICRC delegation distributed special registration cards among the POW's, most of which were torn in protest to the visit in the very presence of the delegation.

ICRC resumed its activities in Iran last week on promise of observing the international regulations. Iran halted the activities of the ICRC officials about two years ago due to their one-sided stance and biased report on the Gorgan refugee camp incident in 1984.

Iraqi Defector Urges Others To Save Lives

LD182233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Flight 1st Lieutenant Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasan Faraj, formerly of the Iraqi Air Force 5th Squadron at Nasiriyah airbase, while flying his Sukhoy-22 aircraft recently sought asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a televised message on Thursday detailing his request for asylum in Iran he asked other Iraqi pilots to take refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran and save their own lives. [passage omitted]

Noting oppression in the Iraqi Army and Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons against Islamic combatants, the Iraqi pilot said: Saddam Husayn exerts very high pressure on Iraqi Army personnel to fight the Islamic forces. I myself am a witness to using chemical bombs onboard Iraqi aircraft during the Val Fajr-8 operations. [passage omitted]

Flight 1st Lt 'Abd al-Hasan Faraj in his televised message urged Iraqi pilots and Army personnel to shake off their fright and break the atmosphere of fear, and seek refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He asked Islamic Republic of Iran officials to prepare facilities and safe landing places for Iraqi aircraft used for seeking asylum.

Communique No 2,689 Issued on Operations

LD181920 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — Several Iraqi artillery pieces, heavy mortar launchers, and at least three trucks were demolished and their crews killed by the heavy fire of Muslim combatants of Iran on enemy artillery positions and logistic routes in northwestern and western operational fronts, announced the Joint Staff Command Communique No 2,689 issued here Thursday.

The communique added that several group bunkers and observation posts and parts of enemy's defensive lines were destroyed and

movement of their logistic columns checked by Gendarmerie personnel in the same fronts during Wednesday and Thursday.

Exchange of artillery and tank fire continued in most fronts being more intense in the southern operational theaters of Kushk and Zeydi.

Reports from southern fronts indicate that patrol units of Muslim combatants carried out missions on pre-determined points and returned to their bases safely after inflicting blows on the enemy.

In Nahr-e Anbar operational theater, engineering activities of the enemy were disturbed under the artillery fire of Muslim

combatants and Iraqi equipment was set ablaze, said the communique.

The tank units of Muslim combatants silenced Iraqi fire in Yabis theater and inflicted casualties on Iraqi tanks.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were repulsed with the anti-aircraft fire of Iranian combatants in Talayeh and Kushk fronts during the said period, concluded the Joint Staff communique.